

could have workmen's comp, unemployment comp, good pay, pensions and overtime protection and all of those things we have in law today.

All of that is at risk with these trade laws. If we continue on the path that we are on, or we have been on, we are spiraling down to the least common denominator in our law. We are going into the valley where countries who have no protections for their workers simply live today.

When we fail to meet these standards, workers in Bangladesh remain in sweatshops. When we fail to meet these standards of worker safety and the environment, children in the Ivory Coast are forced into slave labor. At home, workers lose their jobs because companies relocate to areas with fewer safety and environmental standards.

We have seen the great exodus out of many of our communities. Manufacturing concerns get up and go. They do not want to pay the \$12 an hour, the \$14 an hour. They go down to Mexico where they pay less than \$1 an hour.

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They manufacture and assemble what they have to, ship it right back across the border, often on trucks that are not safe, moving through our country, with no protection for the Mexican workers down there. So the Mexican worker loses, our worker loses. The only people that profit are basically the wealthy multinational corporations and the CEOs, particularly at the top of those corporations.

Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot afford the negative consequences that come along with bad trade deals. Too much is at stake. I would just urge my colleagues tonight, as we proceed on this debate on fast track, to be very careful and very thoughtful in how we approach it.

This is a very important issue for the future of this country and for the future of our children. We need to have environmental safety laws into all of our trade deals, and we need to also make sure we have worker rights embodied in the core agreements of our trade deals so that our workers are not punished here at home and the workers abroad and in developing countries as well have a chance to earn a decent wage so that they can buy the products that they are making.

SUPPORT EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KERNS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, Della Mae is a wonderful, loving, 79-year-old woman totally debilitated by Alzheimer's disease. Joey was a promising young man in his early 20s who died a horrible death; a cruel, tragic death from diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, Della Mae is my mother. Joey was my first cousin. On behalf

of my beloved mother and my first cousin, I plead with the President and the Congress to accept the NIH report on the medical value of embryonic stem cell research and to not block Federal funding for this promising, life-saving research; on behalf of not only my mother and my first cousin, but 100 million other Americans suffering from Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, juvenile diabetes, multiple sclerosis, as well as spinal cord injuries resulting in paralysis.

Mr. Speaker, I have watched several close friends devastated by Parkinson's Disease and spinal cord injuries, conditions that could also be aided by embryonic stem cell research. Who amongst us, who amongst us has not been profoundly moved by the sight of former President Ronald Reagan, that giant of a man, now reduced to a mere shadow of his former self by Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Speaker, the scientific evidence is overwhelming that stem cells collected from surplus embryos have great potential to regenerate specific types of human tissues and offer hope for millions of Americans devastated by these and other cruel, fatal diseases. According to research doctors I have talked to at the Mayo Clinic as well as NIH, a vaccine to prevent the onset of Alzheimer's is less than 5 years away, thanks in large part to stem cell research.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, using surplus embryos from in-vitro fertilization that would otherwise be discarded has the potential to save lives and prevent terrible human suffering. Members and the President need to listen to respected colleagues like Senators Orrin Hatch and Connie Mack, as well as Secretary Tommy Thompson, when they tell us this is not an abortion issue. The President and Members need to be clear, Mr. Speaker, that abortion politics should not enter into this decision and certainly should not influence this critical decision.

Embryonic stem cell research, in fact, will prolong life, will improve life, and give hope of life for millions of American people suffering the ravages of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, and multiple sclerosis, not to mention spinal cord paralysis.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of millions of Americans with debilitating, incurable disorders, I respectfully urge the President and the Congress to approve crucial Federal funding for this life-saving medical research. In approving such funding, Mr. Speaker, we can also adopt the same model of accountability and oversight that is used in fetal tissue transplantation research which allows the best possible science to progress.

Mr. Speaker, it is too late for my dear mother and my deceased cousin, but it is not too late for 100 million other American people counting on the President and the Congress to give them hope. Let us give them hope. Let us give them life. Let us support fund-

ing for life-saving and life-extending embryonic stem cell research. It is clearly, clearly the right thing to do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LANGEVIN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TANCREDI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BUYER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THOUGHTS ON THE U.S. FLAG AND A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to come over today for the discussion of the flag amendment because of meeting with some of my constituents and because of an important markup in the Committee on Resources. However, I would like to tell my colleagues and